The Builder.

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THE official returns of the last census, 1851, and the Registrar-General's reports of "Births, deaths, and marriages," afford materials for inferences calculated to affect materially our future progress and welfare. The future is foreshadowed by the past; and we may safely act in many circumstances, from a consideration of what has gone before, as if we knew, under Providence, what would occur hereafter. Events which we deem accidental and irregular, viewing only part of their cycle, are seen to be orderly and consequent, when we see their whole course. The facts collected throw much light on the circumstances affecting the prosperity and health of the people, and suggest the means of lessening sickness, lengthening life, and guarding against the evil effects of death, in a pecuniary point of view, on those who are left behind. Two statistical charts, one for London, the other for England and Wales,* have recently been compiled by Mr. C. Cooke from the returns we have mentioned, and other authorities. These give in a readable form much information, which, in the barrenness of figures alone, would be passed by; and they place forcibly before the inhabitants of this metropolis many startling facts little thought of. Few, for example, know that in every seven minutes of the day a child is born in London, and that in every nine minutes one of its inhabitants dies! The population of London is, roundly, 2,362,000. If the averages of the past fifty years continue, in thirty-one years from this time as many persons as now compose its population will have died in it, and yet in about thirty-nine years from this time, if the present rate of progress continue, the metropolis will contain twice as many persons as it does now. The whole population of Liverpool in 1851 numbered 255,000; while the *increase* of inhabitants in the metropolis between 1841 and 1851 was 413,000. It is truly marvellous! Where it will stop, and how food and shelter are provided for these masses, are subjects for speculation.

The fact that one in every three persons who die in England falls by *consumption*—that insidious and invincible scourge of this country—is very striking, especially when we remember the influence which the nature of the air we breathe must have in producing it, and the extent to which sanitary improvements might affect it. Statistical returns prove beyond a doubt or question, that those who dwell in confined, unventilated, badly-drained, and over-crowded habitations, live a much shorter time than those who are more favourably situated in this respect.

When persons observe the large number of houses building on all sides of London, the question is often asked, where are the tenants to be found? In truth, however, the number of houses building scarcely keeps pace with the present increase of the population, and in fifty years hence more than double the number of houses existing in 1851 (307,722) would be required to keep pace with the geometrical progress of the living. "To a casual observer," says the author of the charts to which we have referred, "comparatively few houses seem unoccupied in London. The census returns give 5 in every 100, not including those building. The additional houses required for habitation in the year 1852 will number about 6,151; in the following year, 6,268; and so on increasing. But although the inhabitants of this vast city have increased in 10 years 21 per cent. the inhabited houses indicate an increase only of 17 per cent.; which proves that the masses are either more densely packed together than 10 years ago, or that the houses recently constructed are more commodious and of larger dimensions."

A walk through the older districts of London shows a large number of houses uninhabited, even in streets where but a few years ago it would have been scarcely possible to obtain a house on any terms. The unavoidable inference is, knowing the number of houses built and the increase of the population, that the inhabitants are worse lodged than they were,—the houses more crowded.

Amongst the results of the last census are some important tables showing the houses and population of districts in 1851, as contrasted with those in 1841. We give the commencement of the first table, which relates to the London division, and leave our readers to draw their own inferences:—

	Houses, 1841.			Houses, 1851.			Population, 1841.	Population, 1851.
	Inhs.	Uninhs	Buildg.	Inhs.	Uninhs	Buildg.	Persons.	Persons.
MIDDLESEX (*part of*)								
Kensington	10,962	485	656	17,292	1,111	740	74,898	119,990
Chelsea	5,648	178	100	7,629	261	110	40,243	56,543
St. George, Hanover-square	7,630	339	186	8,795	452	163	66,657	73,207
Westminster	6,439	208	52	6,647	276	55	56,802	65,609
St. Martin-in-the-Fields	2,439	70	4	2,323	145	11	25,132	24,557
St. James, Westminster	3,590	118	5	3,460	299	6	37,457	36,426
Marylebone	14,169	583	193	15,955	658	56	138,383	157,679
Hampstead	1,411	72	6	1,719	77	28	10,109	11,986
Pancras	14,766	579	313	18,731	826	268	128,969	167,198
Islington	8,508	293	314	13,558	653	539	55,779	95,154
Hackney	7,192	318	188	9,861	505	193	42,328	58,424
St. Giles	4,959	186	29	4,778	331	21	54,378	54,062
Strand	4,327	537	8	3,938	252	4	43,667	44,446
Holborn	4,603	390	16	4,517	193	15	44,532	46,571
Clerkenwell	6,946	209	79	7,259	296	19	56,799	64,708
St. Luke	6,385	243	24	6,421	246	20	49,908	54,058
East London	4,796	236	7	4,785	202	8	39,718	44,407
West London	3,010	337	12	2,745	180	4	29,188	28,829
London City	7,921	573	82	7,329	1,127	17	56,009	55,908
Shoreditch	12,642	456	199	15,433	692	151	83,564	109,209
Bethnal-green	11,782	396	180	13,370	387	124	74,206	90,170
Whitechapel	8,834	495	44	8,832	321	21	71,879	79,756
St. George-in-the-East	5,985	243	24	6,151	178	23	41,416	48,375
Stepney	14,364	557	128	16,346	863	222	90,831	110,669
Poplar	5,066	181	121	6,882	336	122	31,171	45,157
SURREY (*part of*)								
St. Saviour, Southwark	4,659	182	29	4,613	243	12	33,027	35,729
St. Olave, Southwark	2,523	91	25	2,365	75	1	19,869	19,367
Bermondsey	5,674	263	33	7,095	390	81	35,002	48,128
St. George, Southwark	6,663	357	38	7,005	427	100	46,718	51,825
Newington	9,370	257	92	10,468	575	273	54,693	64,805
Lambeth	17,791	544	351	20,520	1,094	214	116,072	139,240
Wandsworth	6,459	271	89	8,290	598	287	39,918	50,770
Camberwell	6,843	278	119	9,417	917	237	39,931	54,668
Rotherhithe	2,420	112	16	2,834	196	67	13,940	17,778
KENT (*part of*)								
Greenwich	11,995	497	186	14,423	1,075	340	81,125	99,404
Lewisham	3,966	190	84	5,936	432	265	23,051	34,831

In Birmingham there were 27,272 inhabited houses in 1841, 2,958 uninhabited, and 226 building; and 1851, 34,076 inhabited, 1,663 uninhabited, and 436 building.

In Liverpool, 1841, 32,079 inhabited, 971 uninhabited, and 469 building; and in 1851, 35,360 inhabited, 3,275! uninhabited, and 90 building.

In Manchester, 1841, 32,314 inhabited, 2,745 uninhabited, and 172 building; and in 1851, 36,562 inhabited, 1,192 uninhabited, and 167 building.

Unfortunately, although we keep adding up facts, and make clearer and clearer still the existence of tremendous evils in a sanitary point of view, little or no advantage follows: the disease is admitted, and yet remedies are not applied.

On Wednesday, the 21st, a deputation of the Metropolitan Sanitary Association, headed by the Bishop of London, had an interview with the Earl of Derby, as first Lord of her Majesty's Treasury, and presented a memorial showing, amongst other things,—

"That the death-rate of London (25 per 1,000 per annum) is double the attainable minimum of mortality, as established by the reports of the Registrar-General and of the city medical officer.

That a large proportion of this excessive disease and mortality is attributable to defective water-supply and drainage; to the burial of the dead amidst the living; to the pollution of the air with smoke, and of the earth with stagnant filth, superficial and subterranean; to the practice of slaughtering and other noisome trades, in the heart of a dense population; and to the undue crowding of the poor in badly-constructed and ill-ventilated houses.

That the continuance of this preventible mortality and disease, and of the vice, pauperism, and misery, which it indirectly occasions, constitutes a heavy burden on those resources, personal and pecuniary, which collectively make up the strength of the nation.

That measures for remedying these sanitary evils, and putting an end to these preventible sufferings, by purifying and keeping pure the air, the earth, and the water of London, have been for many years in preparation by Royal Commissions, by Parliamentary Committees, and Government Boards; that those measures are now ripe for execution, and ought not to be any longer delayed."

The memorial then urged the Government to adopt the aforesaid measures, and to make them the basis of improved sanitary legislation, having for its object to bring about the accomplishment of the following, amongst other results:—

To bring the Extramural Interments Act into operation.

To bring down pure sand-spring water from barren uplands in the vicinity of London, instead of pumping up impure valley-drain river-water from the Thames, the Lea, and the Ravensbourne; and to

* Published by Longman, Brown, and Co.

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